

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 12706 220813Z

17

ACTION SS-25

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O R 220735Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2958

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12706

EXDIS

SEOUL FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, UR

SUBJECT: BRITISH JOURNALIST ON SINO-U.S.-SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS

REF: HONG KONG 12692

1. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS FURTHER REMARKS TO CONGENOFF BY BRITISH JOURNALIST NEVILLE MAXWELL WHEN HE EXITED PRC NOVEMBER 20 AFTER A THREE-WEEK VISIT (REFTEL). HE IS PRO-CHINESE AND BELIEVED ON CLOSE TERMS WITH PRC, BUT CLAIMS FOLLOWING IS PURELY HIS OWN CONJECTURE. HOWEVER WE ARE REPORTING BECAUSE HE MAY PUBLISH THESE VIEWS.

2. MAXWELL "SPECULATES" THAT THE U.S. SEEKING TO PREVENT A SINO-SOVIET WAR, PROMISED THE CHINESE ADVANCE WARNING OF SOVIET ATTACK. THE U.S. TOLD THE SOVIETS OF THIS, ADDING THAT THE CHINESE WOULD NOT GET SOVIET DEFENSE SECRETS, BUT THAT MOSCOW COULD NOT SURPRISE THE CHINESE. THE SOVIETS TESTED THIS BY AN ATTACK EXERCISE. THE U.S. ALERTED PEKING, WHICH TOOK EARLY REACTIVE MEASURES THATSNONVINCE THE SOVIETS OF THE U.S. WARNING.

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3. HE MIGHT NOT HAVE IT EXACTLY RIGHT, MAXWELL SAID, BUT

SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAD LED TO THE SITUATION TODAY WHEN SOVIETS
AND AMERICANS CHOSE TO HOLD A SUMMIT MEETING AT VLADIVOSTOK,
WHICH HITERTO WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE PROVOCATIVE TO
PEKING, AND THE CHINESE DO NOT TURN A HAIR.
CROSS

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